

[illegible]

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE BUILDER."

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,  
A Freemason of the Church.

A.D.  
597 Austin the Monk.  
680 Bennet, Abbot of Wirral.  
838 St. Seritha.  
872 King Alfred.  
900 Ethred, Prince of Mercia.  
928 Athelstane.  
957 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury.  
1119 Edward the Confessor.  
1066 Goddolph, Bishop of Rochester.  
1100 Henry I.  
1135 Gilbert de Clare, Marquis of Pembroke.  
1155 The Grand Master of the Templars.  
1199 Peter de Colechurch.  
1216 John de Mease, Bishop of Winchester.  
1222 Walter Giffard, Archbishop of York.  
1302 Walter Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter.  
1322 Edward III.  
1357 William & Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester.  
1376 Thomas de Latham, Abbot of Westminster.  
1377 William & Wykeham, again.  
1400 Thomas Fitz Alan, Earl of Surrey.  
1413 Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury.  
1443 William Warfene, Bishop of Winchester.  
1471 Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury.  
1509 The Grand Master of the Order of St. John  
Henry VII. Patron.

- 1502 Henry VII.
- 1515 Cardinal Wolsey.
- 1530 Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex.
- 1543 John Touchet, Earl Audley.
- 1549 Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset.
- 1552 John Poynt, Bishop of Winchester.
- 1560 Sir Thomas Sackville.
- 1567 Sir Thomas Gresham, in the South.
- Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, in the North.
- 1580 Charles Howard, Earl of Effingham.
- 1588 George Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon.
- 1603 King James I., Petrou.
- Inglo Jones, Grand Master.
- 1618 William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke.
- 1625 King Charles.
- 1630 Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby.
- 1633 Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel.
- 1635 Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford.
- 1636 Inglo Jones, again.
- 1643 Henry Jern yn, Earl of St. Albans.
- 1666 Thomas S. vage, Earl of Rivers.
- George Vill. era, Duke of Buckingham.
- 1679 Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington.
- 1685 Sir Christopher Wren.
- 1698 Charles Lenox, Duke of Richmond.
- Sir Christopher Wren, again.
- 1717 Anthony Sayer, Esq.
- 1718 George Payne, Esq.
- 1719 Dr. Demaguiers.
- 1720 George Payne, Esq., again.
- 1721 John, Duke of Montagu.
- 1722 Philip, Duke of Wharton.
- 1723 The Duke of Buccleugh.
- 1724 The Duke of Richmond.
- 1725 The Earl of Abercorn.
- 1726 William O'Brian, Earl of Inchiquin.
- 1727 Lord Coleraine.
- 1728 Lord Kingston.
- 1729 Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk.
- 1731 Lord Lovel.

A.D.  
1732 Anthony Brown, Viscount Montacute.  
1734 The Earl of Strathmore.  
1734 The Earl of Crawford.  
1735 Thomas Thynne, Viscount Weymouth.  
1736 John Campbell, Earl of London.  
1738 H. Brydges, Marquis of Carnarvon.  
1739 Lord Raymond.  
1740 The Earl of Kinton.  
1741 The Earl of Morton.  
1742 John Ward, Lord Dudley and Ward.  
1743 James, Lord Craufurd.  
1747 Lord Byron.  
1752 John, Lord Caryfort.  
1754 Marquis of Carnarvon, again.  
1757 Sholto, Lord Aberdour.  
1762 Washington Shirley, Earl Ferrers.  
1764 Lord Basing.  
1767 Henry, Duke of Beaufort.  
1772 Robert Edward, Lord Petre.  
1777 George, Duke of Manchester.  
1782 H. R. H. Frederick, Duke of Cumberland.  
1790 H. R. H. George, Prince of Wales.  
1813 H. R. H. Augustus Frederic, Duke of Sussex,  
at the Union.  
1843 The Earl of Zeland, Acting.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AVILDER

You are perhaps not aware that the Commission for Westminster, &c., extends to the parish of Hampton, embracing all the land affected by the tide or by outrageous waters from the uplands, excepting, indeed, that portion of the river Brent which was interfered with by the execution of the Grand Junction Canal as permitted by the Act establishing the Company, and the parish of Chiswick, which is not noticed in the commission.

The difficulties and expense which the commissioners had to contend with in consequence of the extension of the town, have arisen from the deficiency or inapplicability of the powers to prevent improperly constructed drains from being opened into the public sewers, and from the want of a sufficient number of public sewers to receive the drainage of the town. Previous to the year 1806, there was only one surveyor, with no clerks of the works or other assistance; there was no descriptive plan showing the district upon which the commissioners exercised their jurisdiction (the map of the town of Birmingham, as it then was, being the only map of the town of Birmingham). The establishment was, in 1807, increased, and there has been a vast extension of the brick sewers, and many of the watercourses have been corrected and improved by inverted brick arches, the outlet since the year 1824 has extended to the suburbs of the town, and a very much larger sum has been expended by the public, than by any other body of individuals.

When it is considered that the commissioner has of late never exerted their authority or supervision beyond the border of the Coonies Creek district, which includes only a small portion of the parish of Fulham, and hardly any of Hammersmith it must be admitted that the additional officers advertised for are essentially requisite, and that the attainments of a practical architect, versed in engineering, are called for, as well as those of an honest clerk of the works, whose labours should be extended with assiduity over the distant district assigned.

It may be pardonable to mention that the aid of the first of these officers should be applied to the prospective improvement of the existing sewerage, and in calculations as to the future demands of the whole of the city, and not to the sewerage of the district of those lying beyond them, and also those into which the commission does not at present extend. I am looking at the condition of this populous and wealthy metropolis, and its noble river, polluted and choked with refuse, and I am tempted to look away the hope that the views of one of our most enlightened builders, Mr. Thomas Cubitt, and of several of the commissioners, will be entertained, and that the practical means of carrying out, along all the alluvial waters of the north side of the river eastward and westward by deep tunnels, without interfering with it, shall be seriously and fully considered. The proposition being that all the refuse and sewage of the city should be carried by underground courses tunnelled through the blue clay stratum till they reach the flat lands eastward and westward, when they shall issue into deep drains, drains, from which, by engine work, they may be elevated to the level of the river, and be used for agricultural purposes, and the remainder, if any,

It may be supposed that this plan is too visionary to be carried into execution, and that the expense even if it were practicable, would be too enormous to be tolerated. A little reflection may probably induce us to think that neither of these circumstances really attends the idea.

The superfluous drained, whether of land street or houses, is easily ascertained. On the northern side of the Thames the largest surface is that of the lands having a current into the Fleet river; the dimensions of the arched sewer at Blackfriars'-bridge have always been found adequate, and there is no flood-gate against the entrance of the tide, but the water flows into it. The next sewer is that which flows toward the summit of Hyde-park, the water is drained by the King's Scholars'-pond Sewer, which is of moderate capacity and unequal current, and unassists into the Thames, being pouled up every tide. Let us suppose that this last-mentioned sewer is intercepted where it crosses Piccadilly, and by some junction is made to flow into the Fleet; then, to prevent a new deep sewer tunnelled through the blue clay, and which deep sewer shall receive all the other sewers it shall meet in its eastward course to be continued under Piccadilly, the Haymarket, and Charing-cross, where it shall be, at least as to the entrance of its arch, not less than twenty feet below the water-mark; at that point it should receive another sewer, which is a matter of great importance, calculated to convey all the waters of the low lands of Westminster, Fulham, and Chelsea.

From this point, with increased dimensions, by a daily regulated current, this main and twinned sewer should proceed eastward, still through the blue clay, parallel to the river, avoiding Paul's, and whether under houses or not, to Algate, thence under Whitechapel-road to Mile-end and so onward to Plinlow Meads, passing under the Poplar and Forest roads, and the boundaries of Plinlow, deep, spacious, and of substantial reservoirs should be formed, capable of receiving the contents of this main sewer, and from which, by the operation of powerful engines, the same may be elevated and distributed either in the shape of liquid or as compressed manure upon the fields, the liquid portion being delivered into channels at the foot of the forest, and thence into the meadows and at length communicate with the river, should any surplus water remain unused.

It is conceived that the branch sewer which would enter at Charing Cross would be capable of relieving all the district east of the Counties Creek, lying below high water, and perhaps be equal to take a portion of the Counties Creek sewer and of the Rancie, in the event of an overflow, which the sewer above to be described as running westward could afford discharge for, viz.

That of a new sewer, to commence at Knight bridge, and thence to run westward at a moderate depth below the surface, but still with an increasing current, till it reached some selected spot, probably about Brook Green, whence its contents might be capable of distribution over the low lands, or even the upper agricultural lands northward and westward of the reservoirs, which should be formed similar but of less capacity than those described to be executed in the neighbourhood of Plaster.

A map has been prepared by Messrs. Milner & Braithwaite, the engineers, shewing all the drains and wells in the vicinity of the metropolis, and the map very distinctly describes the strata which would be intersected by the formation of these sewers, and of course facilitates the operation by the information which will afford, and by the avoidance of the reservoirs which are in existence.

It is a matter of tolerably easy calculation, as what the magnitude of these sewers, and as to what their currents, as they proceed, should be, for it is obvious that if the blue clay is everywhere deep enough to admit of a rapid current, the amplitude of the sewer itself may be less in proportion than would be the current sluggish; information, however, is not at this moment at hand, but the matter is open for the commissioners of the divisions, namely, the commissioners for Westminster, for Finsbury, the City, and the Tower Hamlets, to exert their faculties, and for the officers to enter upon the consideration of the importance and value of the improvement.

With regard to the expense, the present moment is favourable for the borrowing of money, as is evidenced by the high price of the public funds. In the issue of a special parliamentary loan, secured upon the rates of the above-mentioned metropolitan districts, would in all probability be cheerfully met. The property assessable is so ample. Besides, the labour of the country is now little employed, and nothing is required but what our national resources furnish. The property of individuals and the public domain will be so greatly benefited by the plan, that